

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

Radio Address – New Merit Award

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Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

There is nothing more important in Michigan today than creating good-paying jobs.

That's why my administration is implementing the most comprehensive job creation plan in the nation.

We are doing all we can to create jobs today by speeding up needed projects like road and bridge repair that put people to work now. And we have completely overhauled our job training and placement system in Michigan to help workers get the skills they need to fill job vacancies that already exist.

We are also helping our young people get ready for the jobs that will exist tomorrow – jobs that require a college degree or technical training.

That's why we have to tell all our young people two things.

First, if you want a good-paying job, you need education beyond high school.

Second, when you continue your education, the state of Michigan will help you pay the bill.

That's why I am fighting to create a new scholarship in Michigan – a \$4,000 scholarship available to every student who wants to earn a college degree or technical certification.

That amount is enough to pay for a two-year degree at a Michigan community college that leads to good-paying jobs in dozens of technical fields.

Or that \$4,000 scholarship can be used at any of our public and private colleges and universities or to pay for career and technical training.

The Merit Award scholarship we have in Michigan today goes to only half our high school graduates based on their score on a standardized test.

When it comes to helping our kids get the education they need, batting 500 just isn't good enough.

If we expect them all to get education or training after high school, we've got to help all of them pay for it. It is that simple.

On Monday, I'll send a special message to the Legislature asking them to pass my New Merit Award scholarship before they break for the summer later this month.

Doing so will send an unmistakable signal to our employers and to those we want to bring to this state: Michigan is determined to have the educated workforce you want for your business.

If we want the jobs of tomorrow in Michigan, we need to make this commitment to our young people today.

Thank you for listening.